

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph, designated as [0001], after p. 21, line 2. The newly added subject matter was taken from p. 7, lines 24-28 in U.S. Appl. No. 09/564,531, which was incorporated by reference into the present specification at page 2, lines 7-13 of the instant application:

The present invention may include a wetting composition for wet wipes. Wet wipes employing ion-sensitive polymer formulations are stable during storage and retain a desired level of wet strength during use and are wetted with a wetting composition or cleaning agent that can be relatively free, or is substantially free, of organic solvents.

Please add the following new paragraph, designated as [0001.1], after p. 21, line 2 and immediately following paragraph [0001] as designated above. The newly added subject matter was taken from p. 41, lines 15-30 and from p. 110, lines 25-27 in U.S. Appl. No. 09/564,531, which was incorporated by reference into the present specification at page 2, lines 7-13 of the instant application:

Wetting compositions for use in the present invention may contain an activating compound that maintains the strength of a water-dispersible binder until the activating compound is diluted with water, whereupon the strength of the water-dispersible binder begins to decay. The water-dispersible binder may be any of ion-sensitive binder compositions used in the wet wipes or any other ion-sensitive binder composition. The activating compound in the wetting composition can be a salt, such as sodium chloride, or any other compound, which provides in-use and storage strength to the water-dispersible binder composition, and can be diluted in water to permit dispersion of the substrate as the binder polymer triggers to a weaker state. The wetting composition may contain a wetting composition having an activating compound at a concentration of at least 1 weight percent based on the weight of the wetting composition. Desirably, the wetting composition contains less than about 10 weight percent of an activating compound based on the total weight of the wetting composition. Specifically, the

wetting composition may contain from about 0.3 weight percent to about 5 weight percent of an activating compound. Even more specifically, the wetting composition may contain from about 2 weight percent to about 4 weight percent of an activating compound.

Please add the following new paragraph, designated as [0001.2], after p. 21, line 2 and immediately following paragraph [0001.1] as designated above. The newly added subject matter was taken from p. 110, line 29 to p. 111, line 8 and p. 111, lines 13-14 in U.S. Appl. No. 09/564,531, which was incorporated by reference into the present specification at page 2, lines 7-13 of the instant application:

The wetting composition may also contain a monovalent salt as an activating compound. The monovalent salt may be present at a concentration of at least 1 weight percent based on the weight of the wetting composition. The monovalent salt may also be present in the wetting composition at a concentration from about 1 weight percent to about 10 weight percent or from about 1 weight percent to about 5 weight percent based on the weight of the wetting composition. Sodium chloride is an exemplary monovalent salt that may be used in the wetting composition.

Please add the following new paragraph, designated as [0001.3], after p. 21, line 2 and immediately following paragraph [0001.2] as designated above. The newly added subject matter was taken from p. 5, lines 15-29 in U.S. Appl. No. 09/564,531, which was incorporated by reference into the present specification at page 2, lines 7-13 of the instant application:

Ion-sensitive polymer formulations used in the wet wipes have a "trigger property," such that the polymers are insoluble in a wetting composition comprising ions of a particular type and concentration, such as monovalent salt solutions at a concentration from about 0.3% to 10%, but can be soluble when diluted with water,

including divalent salt solutions such as hard water with up to 200 ppm (parts per million) calcium and magnesium ions. Unlike some ion-sensitive polymer formulations, which lose dispersibility in hard water because of ion cross-linking by calcium ions, polymer formulations used in the present invention are relatively insensitive to calcium and/or magnesium ions. Consequently, flushable products containing the polymer formulations in the present invention maintain dispersibility in hard water. Furthermore, ion-sensitive polymer formulations used in the present invention can have improved properties of sprayability or reduced high-shear viscosity, improved product wettability or decreased properties of product stiffness and stickiness.

Please add the following new paragraph, designated as [0001.4], after p. 21, line 2 and immediately following paragraph [0001.3] as designated above. The newly added subject matter was taken from p. 16, line 26 to p. 17 line 15 in U.S. Appl. No. 09/564,531, which was incorporated by reference into the present specification at page 2, lines 7-13 of the instant application:

In order to be effective as a binder material in flushable products throughout the United States, ion-sensitive polymer formulations used in the present invention remain stable and maintain their integrity while dry or in relatively low concentrations of monovalent ions, but become soluble in water containing up to about 200 ppm divalent ions, especially calcium and magnesium ions. Desirably, ion-sensitive polymer formulations used in the present invention, including acrylic acid copolymers, are insoluble in a salt solution containing at least about 0.3 weight percent of one or more inorganic and/or organic salts containing monovalent ions. More desirably, ion-sensitive polymer formulations used in the present invention, including acrylic acid copolymers, are insoluble in a salt solution containing from about 0.3 weight percent to about 5.0 weight percent of one or more inorganic and/or organic salts containing monovalent ions. Even more desirably, ion-sensitive polymer formulations used in the present invention, including acrylic acid copolymers, are insoluble in salt solutions

containing from about 1 weight percent to about 3.0 weight percent of one or more inorganic and/or organic salts containing monovalent ions. Suitable monovalent ions include, but are not limited to, Na⁺ ions, K⁺ ions, Li⁺ ions, NH₄⁺ ions, low molecular weight quaternary ammonium compounds (e.g., those having fewer than 5 carbons on any side group), and a combination thereof.

Please add the following new paragraph, designated as [0001.5], after p. 21, line 2 and immediately following paragraph [0001.4] as designated above. The newly added subject matter was taken from p. 17, lines 16 – p. 18, line 2 in U.S. Appl. No. 09/564,531, which was incorporated by reference into the present specification at page 2, lines 7-13 of the instant application:

In an alternate embodiment, ion-sensitive polymer formulations used in the present invention, including sulfonate anion modified acrylic acid copolymers, are insoluble in a salt solution containing at least about 1 weight percent of one or more inorganic and/or organic salts containing monovalent ions. More desirably, ion-sensitive polymer formulations used in the present invention, including sulfonate anion modified acrylic acid terpolymers, are insoluble in a salt solution containing from about 1 weight percent to about 5.0 weight percent of one or more inorganic and/or organic salts containing monovalent ions. Even more desirably, ion-sensitive polymer formulations used in the present invention, including sulfonate anion modified acrylic acid terpolymers, are insoluble in salt solutions containing from about 1 weight percent to about 3.0 weight percent of one or more inorganic and/or organic salts containing monovalent ions. Suitable monovalent ions include, but are not limited to, Na⁺ ions, K⁺ ions, Li⁺ ions, NH₄⁺ ions, low molecular weight quaternary ammonium compounds (e.g., those having fewer than 5 carbons on any side group), and a combination thereof.